

WG 1: Conflict Prevention (CP) – Partnering for Success in Prevention and Management Efforts

Problem Statement:

Given the immeasurable price in lives and resources after more than a decade of costly stabilization and reconstruction missions, a strong argument can be made for the application of conflict prevention strategies in pursuit of national security objectives.

Successful conflict prevention is less costly in absolute terms and precludes the devastating impact on societies at risk that conflict imposes and recovery from which is demonstrably difficult.

Given the conflict prevention priority, how well are relevant USG agencies, NGOs and IOs equipped to provide successful assistance? How are agency/organization training and education programs preparing personnel to perform well in these challenging environments?

The record to date is mixed. The best known conflict prevention successes include Macedonia and Namibia. Two recent high profile cases—Mali and S. Sudan—highlight deficits in our capabilities to anticipate and respond to deteriorating conditions in countries of strategic importance to the US and the international community.

The Conflict Prevention Working Group will:

- Examine the record to date,
- Explore the factors that contributed to success and failure,
- Examine current education and training programs/discuss strengths and weaknesses and what agencies/organizations can learn from each other

Call for papers:

Call for CP papers on specific cases on conflict prevention—both successes and failures. The papers should include the following themes:

- Partnerships:
 - Partnerships (interveners)—USG, multilateral partners and NGO communities and explore associated authorities
 - Partnerships (interveners and host nation)
 - Assessment and designing efforts:
 - with whom to partner
 - at what stage of planning?
- Capacity building
- Identifying and supporting sources of resilience in host country
- Gender roles among assistance providers and in host country
- Role of early warning systems

The papers must be concise--no longer than 10 pages. An abstract must be included.

The papers will be reviewed by the CP working group leads and will be made available to all PSOTEW participants through a web link.

Papers are due no later than COB 7 March 2014.

POC for papers are Dr Ann Phillips at email APhillips3@usip.org and Jim Ruf email jruf@usip.org